

PATENT  
Serial No. 09/975,380  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on December 28, 2005

IN THE DRAWING

Please replace FIGs 1-3 with the enclosed replacement FIGs 1-

3.

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REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2005, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, with claims 1, and 11 being the only independent claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, where a Replacement Abstract is enclosed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for lacking complete legends in FIGs 1-3. In response, legends have been added to FIGs 1-3. Replacement sheets including FIGs 1-3 are enclosed. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

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In the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is respectfully submitted that the specification, including FIGs 2-3, fully support and enable the present invention as recited in claims 1-20. For example, page 3 line 10 to page 5 line 8 clearly describe that tuners 110a-110d receive respective signals that are separated into portions by respective demultiplexers 120a-120d, and one of the portions is provided to a remultiplexer(s) under the control of a processor 70.

As specifically described on page 5, lines 1-8, the remultiplexer remaps the portions so that no two portions have the same address or have the same identity code, and creates a new index stream embedded in the signal. The signal portions are then remultiplexed into a single signal and provided to a CI slot.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are fully enabled by the specification as one skilled in basic electronics, let alone one skilled in the art of decoders, would clearly know how to make and/or use the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this ground for rejection of claims 1-20

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under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the recitation noted on page 4 of the Office Action, namely, "selected signal portions that have overlapping addresses" and "to reallocate addresses of the signal portions so there is no overlap" is perfectly clear, alone or in view of the specification, such as page 5, lines 1-8. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this ground for rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of

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the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicants' representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 28, 2006

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheets (3 sheets with FIGs 1-3)  
Replacement Abstract

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REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

A decoder has a plurality of tuners ~~(110a-110d)~~ for receiving data from different sources. Each tuner ~~(110a-110d)~~ has an associated demultiplexer ~~(120a-120d)~~ controlled to select a portion of a received signal corresponding to a selected channel or channels. The demultiplexers output to a remultiplexer ~~(130; 210a-210c)~~ configured to determine selected signal portions that have overlapping addresses, to reallocate addresses of the signal portions so there is no overlap, and to multiplex the signal portions for supply to a common interface slot ~~(140; 220a-220c)~~.

{Fig.—2}